Suffolk
VIRGINIA
It's a good time to be in Suffolk

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LOCAL GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY EVENTS PLANNED

SUFFOLK, VA (March 14, 2012)   On Saturday, April 21, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., hundreds of youth will take to the streets of Suffolk in support of "Youth for Change," a Youth Advisory Council-led initiative designed to beautify our city. The youth of Suffolk will join millions of other young people around the world who are creating community change as part of *Global Youth Service Day*, the world's largest and longest-running service event.   Now in its 24th year, *Global Youth Service Day* (April 20-22, 2012) is celebrated in more than 100 countries, and recognizes the positive impact that young people have on their communities, not just for this one day, but 365 days a year. Organized by YSA (Youth Service America), a leader in the international youth service movement, *Global Youth Service Day* offers youth, ages 5 to 25, the resources and support to plan meaningful projects that improve their communities.

The Suffolk Youth Advisory Council hosted a Youth Empowerment Forum on January 30, 2012, and during that forum youth in our city indicated that they would like to see more volunteer opportunities made available to them. To address their concerns, the Suffolk Youth Advisory Council has partnered with the Suffolk Office on Youth, Suffolk Clean Community Commission, Suffolk Department of Public Works, City of Suffolk National Night Out Committee, and Suffolk Parks & Recreation to launch a *Global Youth Service Day* in the City of

Suffolk, Virginia. This citywide project will serve as the first of future annual days each year where youth across the city will engage in various community service projects.

Children, teens and young adults ages 5 to 25 will be recruited from various Scout Troops, faith-based and community-based organizations, schools and youth organizations, along with adults from City Departments, local businesses, civic leagues and community groups. Together, they'll address issues identified by youth in the January forum, including but not limited to recycling, community clean-ups, beautification projects, food drives, voting awareness, feeding the homeless and caring for the elderly. The youth council hopes to recruit a minimum of at least 250 youth and adults to participate in these youth-led projects. Registration to participate ends April 13, 2012. For more project information, or to register youth groups, contact Jennifer Branham, Youth Service Outreach Coordinator, at (757) 514-4503, or by email: jbranham@suffolkva.us, or Jason Pittman at (757) 514-7268, or by email: jpittman@suffolkva.us.

Learn More about Global Youth Service Day
To learn more about Global Youth Service Day, visit: *www.GYSD.org*.
Connect on Facebook at www.facebook.com/globalyouthserviceday and on Twitter @gysd.

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